

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
STREET COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 13, 2003
MAG Offices, Saguaro Conference Room
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Don Herp, Phoenix, Chairman	Chris Plumb, Maricopa County
Andrew Smith, ADOT	Mitch Foy for Kevin Wallace, Mesa
Mike Smith, Avondale	Andrew Cooper, Paradise Valley
Dan Cook, Chandler	Burton Charron, Peoria
*David Evertsen, Gila Bend	*Bob Ronzo, Salt River Pima-Maricopa
Michael Vinson, Gila River Indian Community	Indian Community
Mike Sutton for Bruce Ward, Gilbert	Robert Brown, Scottsdale
Allan Grover for Dan Sherwood, Glendale	Robert Maki, Surprise
Charles Hydeman, Goodyear	Larry Shobe, Tempe
*Jim Ricker, Guadalupe	Richard Rawnsley for Ralph Velez, Tolleson
*Doug Pike, Litchfield Park	*Jesse Mendez, Youngtown

*Members neither present nor represented by Proxy

OTHERS PRESENT

Randy Allenstein, ADOT	Paul Ward, MAG
Stephen Tate, MAG	

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Herp at 1:30 p.m.

2. Approval of the March April 8, 2003 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Call to the Audience and Stakeholders

Andrew Smith requested to address the Committee. He distributed a draft document which had been developed by ADOT to improve the coordination between ADOT, local governments and other parties in freeway corridors. He requested that members review the document and provide comments to him.

He also suggested that it might be appropriate for the document to be discussed at the next meeting of the Street Committee and the Chairman agreed. Paul Ward indicated that he would have the document distributed electronically to members of the Committee who were not present at the meeting.

4. Transportation Programming Manager's Report

Mr. Ward reported that the Regional Council had approved TIP amendment number six and that this included revisions to projects in Avondale, Phoenix and Mesa. He also noted that the federal fiscal year close out was underway.

He also reminded members that MAG would be developing a four-year FY 2004-2007 TIP and that this TIP would be developed in two main steps: updating and adding locally and privately funded projects and updating and adding new federally funded projects where and when appropriate. He suggested that MAG federally funded projects would not be substantially affected, but that ADOT and transit projects would be reviewed and changes made, if needed.

5. Federal Fiscal Year 2003 Close Out and Reprogramming Requests

Mr. Ward indicated the close out process is dynamic and hence his estimates of fund balances are subject to change. He noted that as of the meeting date he estimated that approximately \$13.3 million in federal funding was expected to be available for reprogramming. All of these funds could be obligated either as Surface Transportation Program (STP) or Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds. Approximately, \$25 million in reprogramming requests had been received to date. These requests included additional requests for street sweepers from some agencies, the acceleration of a number of projects, increased federal funding for some projects and a \$12 million request for light rail transit.

He noted that additional Obligation Authority (OA) usually becomes available near the end of the federal fiscal year, but that the allocation of this OA to projects would have to be addressed by identifying contingency projects before hand due to time limitations.

Mr. Smith asked about ongoing efforts to review the MAG programming process. Mr. Ward indicated that this review was awaiting results of the performance measures being generated as part of the development of the Regional Transportation Plan.

6. MAG Federally Funded Locally Sponsored Project Development Status

Stephen Tate distributed a copy of the project status report and requested that members review the report and provide him with updates as appropriate. He noted that the federal fiscal year effectively ended in mid-September and suggested that member agencies take the time to carefully assess the likelihood that their FY 2003 projects would obligate on time. If they concluded that a FY 2003 project would not obligate this year, they should contact MAG as soon as possible to request a deferral. Although the official deferral deadline had passed (March 1), the last possible opportunity to request that a project be deferred is at the July Regional Council meeting. The mail out for this meeting is expected to be around June 16, 2003, so this is the last possible drop-dead date for requesting project deferrals..

Randy Allenstein gave a brief report on project develop process as administered by the ADOT Local Governments Section. He noted that it was essential that member agencies pay attention to the details of the development of the process, that errors in following the process could result in significant time delay and possibly endanger the project under developed.

He added that environmental reviews were taking considerable time and that agencies should expect at least twelve months to complete environmental documents. As a result of these increasing time requirements, the time to develop a project was increasing to up to two years. He added that ADOT was working on measures to streamline the process. He encouraged members to start their projects early and to work closely from the start with ADOT Local Governments Section staff.

He concluded by noting that as at the date of the meeting, that only projects that had largely completed the environmental review process and were well into design were likely to obligate.

Dan Cook suggested that the increased lead time needed to develop federally funded projects may require a review of the MAG rule that a project may be only deferred once. He noted that, in at least one case, Chandler has experienced delays of as much as eight months in reviewing environmental documents. He suggested that an allowance should be made for projects that were difficult despite the best efforts of the local agency. Mr. Ward noted that, on some select occasions in the past, MAG had allowed agencies to defer projects a second time.

Mr. Tate agreed with Mr. Cook about allowing projects to be deferred a second time, but noted that the rule had been developed to prevent agencies from continuously rolling over projects and that his issue would need to be addressed if the rule was to be changed.

Mr. Allenstein noted that one problem in the process was the consultants sometimes tried to reinvent the process rather than work within the process, resulting in unnecessary delays. Mr. Cook indicated that he would look into the issue.

7. Development of the FY 2004-2007 MAG TIP and Distribution of TIP Data Entry System for Locally Funded Projects

The Chairman had to leave and turned the meeting over to Mr. Larry Shobe, who acted as temporary Chairman for the rest of the meeting. Mr. Ward noted that, as previously stated, MAG will not be developing a full FY 2004-2008 TIP this year. However, MAG will develop an FY 2004-2007 TIP. He indicated that it is anticipated that this four-year TIP will undergo an air quality conformity analysis in October, 2003, and will include anticipated funding from an extension of the current regional half-cent sales tax in the outer years only. This TIP was being developed as the first four years of the currently underway Regional Transportation Plan, which will be available for public review prior to an anticipated election in 2004 to extend the current half-cent sales tax.

He added that as a first step in this process, MAG has developed a TIP data entry system to allow member agencies to update existing, and add new, locally and privately funded projects. He concluded by noting that updated data to MAG were due on **Friday June 27, 2003**. Mr. Tate then provided a brief overview of the revised TIP data entry system, indicating that it was an MS Access application and that it would be distributed electronically to member agencies after the meeting, together with revised guidelines for completing the update process. He also stated that paper forms would be provided to those agencies that were unable to use the Access application.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49.